

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

#### Status of claims

Claims 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended. Claims 11, 12, 13, 14 and 19 are to be cancelled, without prejudice to filing a continuing application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 17 were previously canceled. Claims 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 18 remain pending.

#### Discussion

In view of the interview, the claims are further amended as shown above to better differentiate the prior art and more clearly point out the invention. The amendments are believed as agreed on April 8, 2004 except the phrase "containing a toxin and" has been added to claim 5, line 3 for clarity and the word "assay" has been deleted where it appeared following the word "ELISA" to avoid redundancy.

#### Conclusion

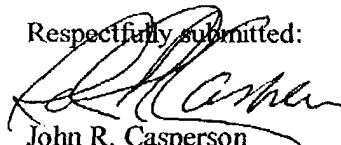
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and early notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted:

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